

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

INTRODUCTION OF THE MOUNT NEBO WILDERNESS BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT ACT

HON. JAMES V. HANSEN

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2001

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Mount Nebo Wilderness Boundary Adjustment Act.

The Mount Nebo Wilderness Area is located in the Uinta National Forest in Juab County, Utah. This is a very beautiful area, rich in biological diversity. Inside the Wilderness Area are streams teeming with Rainbow Trout, collages of wildflowers during Spring and Summer, and beautiful mountain scenery. This area is also home to mule deer, elk, and moose. The Mount Nebo area undoubtedly deserves Wilderness protection.

Mount Nebo was designated a Wilderness Area in the Utah Wilderness Act of 1984, which I sponsored. However, during the legislative process, various oversights occurred because a map of the area was not adequately reviewed at the committee level. Erroneously included inside the boundaries were various preexisting developments to the water systems that have supplied clean water to Juab County since the late 1800s. These systems are in need of constant maintenance and care, and due to the restrictions on motorized vehicles in Wilderness Areas, it became very difficult—and sometimes impossible—to adequately maintain these facilities. In addition to these maintenance problems, the Wilderness Area includes a very small portion of private land that should not be inside the boundaries.

This bill will remedy this situation by adjusting the current boundary to exclude these water developments, and the small portion of private land. The boundary will then be modified to include an area of roadless Forest Service land to compensate for the boundary adjustment, resulting in a ten acre net-gain in the Wilderness Area. Thus, this bill results in a net gain of Wilderness acreage within the Mount Nebo Wilderness Area.

As this bill is non-controversial, I urge all of my colleagues to support the Mount Nebo Wilderness Boundary Adjustment Act.

STATEMENT BY CONGRESSMAN
ALCEE L. HASTINGS IN TRIBUTE
TO AND IN MEMORY OF MRS.
EULA GANDY JOHNSON

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2001

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in order to express condolences for one of Florida's best known and most respected civil rights activists who passed away earlier this month. I am deeply saddened by

the loss of Mrs. Eula Gandy Johnson, a long-time personal friend and confidant, political supporter, and civil rights mentor.

Eula Gandy Johnson, well known to many as "Miss Eula," started her pioneering leadership in civil rights in Statenville, Georgia. A short time after, she moved on to Fort Lauderdale where she then lived for 62 years, bringing with her strong beliefs and passion for politics. She was simply a bold woman, who through her many contributions to human dignity, became an educator, opening our minds to the endless possibilities of an educated community. She was an immense resource for the National Conference of Community and Justice, to which she served as a strong supporter. Additionally, she was quite a strong force behind aspects of racial desegregation and discrimination to the African American community in Broward County.

Miss Eula was a graceful lady who epitomized dignity and charm. She had a deep, abiding faith in God, being a Sunday School teacher at First Baptist Church in Piney Grove and always enlightened those with her words of inspiration. She will always be remembered as having a keen mind with a way of achieving her goals with a certain fearless attitude.

It is often said that everyone is expendable, no matter their greatness. Eula Gandy Johnson, for her greatness, for the unselfish contributions that she made to the African American community throughout Florida, to her friends, and to all those who had the privilege to know her, is uniquely irreplaceable.

RECOGNIZING CONSTITUENT SURVEY RESULTS FROM COLORADO

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2001

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, today I speak about Colorado's Fourth Congressional District and the opinions of my constituents concerning the direction their country is taking. The Fourth Congressional District covers the 21 counties of Colorado's eastern plains, and approximately half of the State. I would like to share with you the thoughts of thousands of citizens from Eastern Colorado by reporting the results of an opinion survey I sent to Fourth District constituents. On December 29, 2000 I asked each registered household in my district to respond to a mail-return opinion survey.

The survey asked, "What is the single most important issue facing our country today?" Respondents came back with a whole host of answers including preserving social security, the need for an effective missile defense system, our country's moral deterioration and the lack of immigration law enforcement.

An overwhelming majority of Colorado's Fourth District constituents believe taxes and education are the two most important issues facing American families today. In separate

questions, they voiced their opinions citing problems and solutions to these tough issues.

Responses concerning education included the need for parental involvement; smaller classroom sizes; school funds not reaching the classroom; worries over drugs and violence in schools and the demand for more local control. While the answers are varied, the message is the same: Parents expect quality public education and deserve to get the most for their tax dollar.

Colorado constituents are also concerned with a number of different tax issues. Last year I fought to repeal the death tax and marriage penalty taxes. Despite bipartisan support, Bill Clinton vetoed both these bills. Recently, I signed the National Taxpayer Protection Pledge promising to oppose all tax increases and continue opposing any efforts to spend Social Security funds on other government programs. Tax increases of any shape, size or form are wrong at a time when we have a budget surplus. My constituents expect me to balance the federal budget, provide needed tax relief, eliminate government waste, and save Social Security. I believe Coloradans should keep more of their hard-earned money for themselves and their children's futures, and I will continue to fight for this just cause.

Fourth District Coloradans, more than two-to-one, oppose partial birth abortions and overwhelmingly oppose second amendment gun rights being restricted. They also are concerned about our elderly and our veterans. I am proud to fight for the soldiers, sailors and airmen who valiantly defended our country, and I will continue to ensure our nation keeps its promise to our veterans.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful for the opinion survey responses I received. I shall consider this valuable input and share it with colleagues. As one of my constituents said, "P.S.—Thanks for asking." The voice of the people is the cornerstone of our political system and I encourage constituents throughout the country to share their thoughts with their elected officials. As a public servant, I asked, and as always will listen and work for the betterment of Colorado and this great nation.

INTRODUCTION OF THE TAX RELIEF AND MARRIAGE PENALTY ELIMINATION ACT OF 2001

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2001

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation that will provide substantial tax relief to all American taxpayers and entirely eliminate the marriage penalty.

The federal government taxes Americans too much. In fact, Washington is taxing our citizens at the highest rate ever during peacetime. This high level of over-taxation is helping to generate ever-larger surpluses. Not surprisingly, many Washington politicians want to use

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

these tax overcharges to increase the size and scope of the federal government. Like President Bush, I believe that a government with unlimited funds becomes a government with unlimited reach. Thus, he is correct when he states that the solution is stop taking this excess money from the people who earn it in the first place.

At the same time the federal government is taking more than its fair share from our hard working Americans, our federal tax laws have become more and more confusing as special interests line up to get tax breaks. What we need to do is provide substantial tax relief in a simple and fair manner.

The first part of my bill is based on President Bush's across-the-board tax cut proposal. It will simplify and reduce the existing 15%, 28%, 31%, 36%, and 39.6% tax rates with four lower rates of 10%, 15%, 25%, and 33% over a period of 5 years. My tax plan will mean lower taxes for all working Americans.

Time and again, history has demonstrated that across-the-board tax relief has significant, positive economic benefits. Each time in the last century that tax rates were lowered, an economic boom followed. This was most recently demonstrated in the last 20 years. Under strong leadership, the malaise and stagflation of the 1970s melted into the prosperity of the 1980s. And the economic growth of the 1980s provided the venture capital to seed the technology revolution of the 1990s. The turning point of this remarkable economic transformation came on August 13, 1981, when President Reagan signed into law the largest tax relief bill in American history. The 25% across-the-board cut in income taxes, combined with prudent deregulation and anti-inflation monetary policies, helped unleash the longest economic boom in the 20th century. It is clear that providing tax relief in this manner will generate millions of jobs, raise living standards for tens of millions of Americans and increase our collective national wealth by several trillions of dollars.

Tax relief should encourage personal opportunity and economic growth instead of attempting to manipulate individual behavior based on Washington values. We must move away from Washington picking winners and losers by its manipulation of our country's tax laws. Recently, Alan Greenspan, Chairman of the Federal Reserve System, reiterated his long-standing professional opinion that across-the-board tax relief is economically the best way to provide tax relief. Importantly, he stressed the unarguable point that Washington politicians will spend the current national surplus if it is not returned to its rightful owners, the American taxpayers. Consequently, Mr. Greenspan now agrees that we must make across-the-board tax relief a top policy goal.

The second part of my bill will immediately eliminate the marriage penalty in our tax code. This legislation rewrites the existing discriminatory tax laws in order to ensure that married couples will never be penalized on the account of their marital status. Married couples will be able to get standard deduction that is twice the amount of single tax filers. Currently, the standard deduction for a single American is \$4,550 but the married couple only gets \$7,550. Under my bill the married couple will get a standard deduction in the amount of \$9,100, which is twice the amount of the single standard deduction.

Importantly, my bill will also ensure that all income brackets are adjusted so that the mar-

ried brackets are twice the amount of the single brackets. Currently, American families pay a marginal tax rate of 28% on income above \$46,000, while an unmarried couple pays a marginal tax rate of 15% on total income up to \$54,000. That's just plain wrong. My bill will ensure that American families never pay a higher marginal tax rate than an unmarried couple.

It is simply wrong that Washington is punishing our American families by taxing our traditional values. Increasingly, our sons and daughters can not afford to marry. Consequently, they are less likely to dedicate themselves to their relationship and their children. We must eliminate this perverse disincentive for all American families.

I urge my colleagues to join me in providing meaningful tax relief for all taxpayers and immediately eliminating the marriage penalty in our tax laws.

HONORING SENATOR ALAN CRANSTON

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2001

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, today I remember an icon in California public service and a true role model for elected officials. Senator Alan Cranston embodied many attributes that symbol his dedication and commitment to serving the constituents he represented.

Senator Cranston spent 32 years in public office, including twenty-four as a United States Senator and rose to become a powerful force in the Democratic Party. After founding the California Democratic Council and winning two terms as state Controller, Alan Cranston was elected to the United States Senate in 1968, where he served until his retirement in 1993. Always a defender of the less fortunate, Senator Cranston fought for citizens of all races, ethnicities and income brackets, firmly believing that part of the American Dream was equality and opportunity for everyone.

In recognition of his astute leadership and perseverance, Senator Cranston was elected Majority Whip by his colleagues from 1977–1981 and 1987–1991 and served as Minority Whip from 1981–1987.

One of Senator Cranston's most admirable causes was his passionate advocacy of arms control. He was a profound believer in the United Nations and joined with former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to set up the Gorbachev Foundation USA, dedicated to eliminating nuclear weapons.

On a personal note, Senator Cranston was a frequent visitor to my 34th Congressional district where he would attend receptions at the Whittier home of our mutual constituents Kauzo and Mary Miyashita in support of the California Democratic Party. That is where my husband Frank and I first met the Senator in the mid 1980's.

Alan Cranston will be remembered as a superb mechanic of the political process and for being one of California's and the nation's most devout public servants. His leadership should inspire us all and I am proud to celebrate his life and his causes.

ASHCROFT NOMINATION

HON. MELVIN L. WATT

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2001

Mr. WATT of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following resolution of the North Carolina Association of Black Lawyers regarding the nomination of John D. Ashcroft as Attorney General of the United States.

NORTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF BLACK LAWYERS ANNOUNCES OPPOSITION TO THE NOMINATION OF JOHN D. ASHCROFT AS ATTORNEY GENERAL OF UNITED STATES

The North Carolina Association of Black Lawyers, founded in 1971 and representing over 800 African American Lawyers in North Carolina is dedicated to the pursuit of equal justice for all people. In defense of rights of African Americans and all persons believing in the pursuit of equal justice, we announce our active opposition to the confirmation of John A. Ashcroft for Attorney General of the United States. Our opposition is based upon Mr. Ashcroft's demonstrated hostility to ensuring equal justice and access to justice for all Americans.

The Attorney General is responsible for vigorous enforcement of our nation's civil rights laws—pursuing those laws in a fair, vigorous and consistent manner.

Ashcroft has opposed appropriately tailored race-conscious measures designed to remedy present and past discrimination. He even opposes programs that are constitutionally permissible under current Supreme Court precedent.

He repeatedly sponsored legislation to end affirmative action programs in employment, contracting and public programs. He sponsored legislation to end the Department of Transportation's Disadvantaged Minority and Women Business Program. He also sponsored legislation to make provisions similar to California's Proposition 209—which banned affirmative action—a part of federal law.

He opposed Bill Lann Lee because Mr. Lee expressed support for constitutionally permissible affirmative action programs—applying an ideological litmus test to this nomination as he has with judicial nominations. Ashcroft's efforts helped to prevent a vote before the full United States Senate.

As Attorney General and then as Governor, Ashcroft vigorously opposed efforts to desegregate St. Louis' public schools. His opposition was so great that the court almost ordered the State in contempt citing "continual delay and failure to comply" with a court order to submit a voluntary desegregation plan.

Governor Ashcroft vetoed legislation that would have allowed private non-profit, civic, religious and political groups to register voters in the City of St. Louis, he later vetoed a bill that would have allowed such registration in all of Missouri.

During testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee, Ashcroft said that he believed in and supported the President's ideas, which he termed "affirmative access"—already at work in California, Texas and Florida. He calls these programs which end affirmative action and have curtailed meaningful equal educational opportunities for women and minorities—a "good idea."

The Attorney General is the gatekeeper to the federal judiciary—playing a key role in whom the President selects for the federal bench.

Ashcroft has repeatedly blocked the consideration of qualified nominees. His record